

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 079065  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 SSM-05  
TRSE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 PM-05 L-03 H-02 OMB-01  
ACDA-12 AID-05 EB-08 /123 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----008683 280256Z /70

O 280136Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 079065

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR  
DOD  
JCS  
CIA  
USIA  
NSC

UNCLAS STATE 079065

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 27, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 27. FYI ONLY,  
SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON REPORTS FROM ISRAEL THAT MINISTER  
WEIZMAN MAY BE SENT TO EGYPT WITH SOME SECRET PROPOSALS?  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 079065

A. NO. WE HAVE SEEN THAT, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHAT IS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DOING  
RIGHT NOW IN THE WAY OF CONSIDERING THE NEXT STEPS IN ITS  
MIDDLE EAST POLICY?

A. WE ARE JUST ABOUT WHERE WE WERE FRIDAY WHEN THE SECRE-  
TARY TALKED ABOUT THIS. WE EXPECT THE ISRAELI PRIME  
MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO BE CONSIDERING OVER THE NEXT  
FEW WEEKS EXPLORATORY IDEAS WHICH WE PUT FORWARD TO HIM  
DURING HIS MEETINGS HERE -- THE PRESIDENT, IN FACT, PUT  
FORWARD TO HIM. AND I THINK, RIGHT NOW, WE ARE IN A PERIOD  
OF QUIET DIPLOMACY.

WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID FRIDAY, THEREFORE, HOLDS THAT  
THE IDEAS ARE BEING DISCUSSED WITH THE PARTIES, AND WHILE  
THAT EXPLORATION GOES ON, IT IS NOT GOING TO BE HELPFUL  
TO GO INTO SPECIFIC ISSUES.

Q. IS THERE ANY PLAN FOR MR. ATHERTON TO RETURN TO THE  
AREA?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY PLAN FOR HIM TO RETURN TO THE  
AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, NO.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, DOES THAT MEAN  
YOU WOULD NOT EXPECT MR. ATHERTON TO BE GOING BACK FOR THE

NEXT FEW WEEKS?

A. NO. I DON'T THINK THAT EXCLUDES HIS GOING BACK. I JUST DON'T KNOW OF ANY PLANS FOR HIM TO AT THE MOMENT.

Q. NOW THAT THROUGH THE COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE WASHINGTON POST WE HAVE HAD A LIST OF MR. BEGIN'S SIX NOES AND TWO ASSUMPTIONS, DON'T YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 079065

USEFUL AND FAIR TO HAVE ALSO A LIST OF NOES AND YESES THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS OUTLINED IN HIS VISITS HERE?

A. I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAD BETTER TALK TO THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT.

Q. WELL, I AM ADDRESSING IT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE YOU ARE INVOLVED IN IT, AS WELL.

A. AS I READ THE WASHINGTON POST STORY, I DON'T THINK THAT ANYBODY HAS ANNOUNCED THIS LIST. I THINK THAT PERHAPS SOME JOURNALISTIC PERSON WAS RESOURCEFUL IN ACQUIRING IT, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT MEANS THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE IN A POSITION OF ANNOUNCING SOMEBODY ELSE'S SPECIFIC POINTS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT, OR CAN YOU CONFIRM, THE REPORT IN THE STAR ABOUT ISRAELI PRACTICE RAIDS ON TABUK AIR BASE?

A. YES I DO HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT. NOT VERY MUCH. THE QUESTION IS, THERE IS A STORY IN THE STAR THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN MAKING MOCK RUNS ON THE SAUDI AIR BASE AT TABUK, AND THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE COMPLAINED TO US ABOUT IT, AND WE HAVE TAKEN IT UP WITH THE ISRAELIS.

THE ANSWER IS THAT IN PAST TIMES, THE SAUDIS HAVE COMPLAINED TO US ABOUT ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS OF TABUK. I THINK IN THE

FALL OF 1976, THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER TOOK NOTE OF THAT IN TALKING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. AND ON OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH THE ISRAELIS.

Q. IS THAT A MISUSE OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT?  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 079065

A. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DETAILS TO COMMENT ON THAT. EVEN IF I HAD THE DETAILS, I AM QUITE CERTAIN I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TELL YOU. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT PLANES THESE WERE, AND THIS GOES BACK OVER A PERIOD APPARENTLY OF SOME TIME.

Q. HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE ISRAELIS? HAVE THEY BEEN ACCOMMODATING ON IT? HAVE YOU HAD A SATISFACTORY ANSWER?

A. THAT IS ALL I AM PREPARED TO SAY ON IT.

Q. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. IS THE FALL OF '76 THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE?

A. I DON'T THINK SO, BUT, I MEAN, I HAVE NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THAT WAS THE LAST.

Q. I MEAN, HAS IT HAPPENED AT ALL SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLANE DEAL?

A. THAT IS SOMETHING I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK IT? THESE REPORTS HAVE SIGNIFICANCE.

A. YES.

Q. YOU SAID FIRST ABOUT MOCK RUNS, AND THEN YOU TALKED ABOUT OVERFLIGHTS. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ACTUAL PRACTICE RAID AND JUST FLYING OVER A GENERAL AREA WHERE A BASE MAY BE LOCATED.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 079065

A. I THINK "MOCK RUNS" WAS A QUOTE FROM ONE OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THIS, AND "OVERFLIGHTS" IS WHAT THE SAUDIS HAVE COMPLAINED TO US ABOUT. NOW, I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO GET INTO LONG DEFINITIONS OF WHAT A MOCK RUN IS AND WHAT AN OVERFLIGHT IS, AND SO FORTH.

Q. WELL, BY DOING THAT, ISRAEL DIDN'T VIOLATE SAUDI

AIR SPACE, THEN?

A. THAT IS ANOTHER THING. I AM NOT GOING TO BE PREPARED TO SAY FROM HERE WHETHER ANOTHER COUNTRY HAS VIOLATED STILL ANOTHER COUNTRY'S AIR SPACE.

Q. ARE YOU CONFIRMING THAT THIS ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE?

A. I AM SAYING THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE COMPLAINED TO US ABOUT IT, AND THAT WE HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME MENTIONED IT TO THE ISRAELIS, DISCUSSED IT WITH THE ISRAELIS.

Q. THAT DOESN'T SAY, THOUGH, WHETHER THIS TOOK PLACE OR DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

A. YOU WILL HAVE TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS ON THAT.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN YOU HAD NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT THE ISRAELIS DID THIS?

A. NO, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT.

Q. WELL, DID YOU HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION?

A. I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STAY WITH WHAT I HAVE.  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 079065

Q. COULD YOU CHECK THAT POINT?

A. NO.

Q. DID THE ISRAELIS DENY THAT WHEN YOU RAISED THE QUESTION WITH THEM?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO TALK, AS ALWAYS, ABOUT DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS OF THAT KIND.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE A REASON WHY YOU CAN'T CHECK THAT POINT?

A. THE REASON I AM NOT ABLE TO TAKE THE QUESTION IS THAT THAT IS ALL WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU ON THE SUBJECT. I AM JUST ASSURING YOU THAT FROM OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION THAT IS ALL WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAY ON IT.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHEN IS THE LAST TIME THAT YOU BROUGHT IT UP WITH THE ISRAELIS?

A. WASN'T THAT YOUR QUESTION TOO? NO. YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE LAST TIME OF A COMPLAINT.

Q. THE LAST TIME THAT YOU BROUGHT IT UP WITH THE ISRAELIS.

A. ALL RIGHT. WE WILL TAKE BOTH OF THOSE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THAT QUESTION FROM THE CONGRESSMAN ABOUT THE USE OF AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THE INCURSION INTO LEBANON?

A. THE SECRETARY TALKED ABOUT THAT FRIDAY AND THAT IS JUST WHERE IT OUGHT TO BE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 079065

Q. I KNOW. BUT HAS THERE BEEN ANYTHING? HE SAID WE ARE STUDYING IT, I BELIEVE, AND THEY HAVE BEEN STUDYING THIS INTENTLY FOR ALMOST A WEEK. HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESULT OF THIS STUDY?

A. JUST WHERE WE WERE WHEN HE DISCUSSED IT FRIDAY.

Q. I SEE. IN OTHER WORDS, NO RESULT. THEY ARE STILL STUDYING.

A. YES, AND I MEAN THAT IS THIS KIND OF THING. I AM NOT TRYING TO LEAD YOU DOWN ANY BLIND ALLIES. IT IS A SUBJECT THAT REQUIRES A LOT OF STUDY BECAUSE IT IS COMPLICATED.

Q. THERE IS NO INTENT, OF COURSE, JUST TO LET IT DIE AND JUST PUT IT OFF INTO A PIGEONHOLE. YOU ANTICIPATE THEY REALLY WILL COME BACK WITH AN ANSWER.

A. YES. I SAID THAT A WEEK AGO.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION 242, WHICH IS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETURN ALL OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CAPTURED DURING THE '67 CONFLICT. DO YOU CONSIDER THIS INTERPRETATION AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS?

A. I HAVE HEARD THAT QUESTION BEFORE AND I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER YOU. WHY DON'T I TAKE THAT AND GET YOU A NICELY WORDED ANSWER?

Q. IF IT IS AN OBSTACLE, IS IT A GREATER OBSTACLE THAN THE ISRAELI INTERPRETATION OR A LESSER OBSTACLE THAN THE ISRAELI INTERPRETATION?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 079065

A. WE WOULD HAVE TO GET OUT THE OBSTACLE SCALES AND MEASURE IT.

Q. I WOULD LIKE THAT VERY MUCH.

Q. IS THE AMERICAN INTERPRETATION OF 242 DIFFERENT FROM THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF 242?

A. I AM NOT SURE I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF 242 IS.

Q. THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED IT PUBLICLY THAT THEY AGREE AND HE AGREES TO THAT.

A. I THINK ALL OF THE PARTIES HAVE SUBSCRIBED LONG AGO TO

242 AND I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANY SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM.

Q. I THINK THE ARAB INTERPRETATION IS THEY SAY IT SHOULD BE ALL OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. NOW, SURELY WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THAT? AT LEAST FROM TOM RESTON WE CERTAINLY GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD RATHER AGREE WITH ALMOST ANYTHING IN THE WORLD OTHER THAN THAT. WE CERTAINLY DON'T AGREE THAT THIS MEANS ALL OF THE TERRITORIES; DO WE?

A. I THINK IT HAS BEEN SAID SO MANY TIMES FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED FROM THE 1967 WAR.

Q. RIGHT.

A. JUST TO LAY THIS ALL TO REST, IF I CAN, ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS, WE AND ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT SUBSCRIBED TO THE PROVISIONS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. THAT IS WHY I AM NOT ABLE TO REALLY GIVE YOU AN ANSWER AS TO WHETHER THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 079065

THAT CONSTITUTES A GREATER "OBSTACLE" TO PEACE THAN THE ISRAELI INTERPRETATION.

Q. BUT YOU DO ACCEPT THAT THE ARAB'S POSITION IS NOT IDENTICAL WITH YOUR POSITION?

A. NO. I DON'T ACCEPT THAT. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO GIVE YOU A LAWYER'S ANALYSIS OF IT.

Q. WHY NOT? YOU HAVE DONE IT WITH THE ISRAELIS. WHY DON'T YOU DO IT WITH THE ARABS?

A. BECAUSE OF JUST WHAT I SAID.

Q. I AM SERIOUSLY PERPLEXED HERE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU STATED THAT THE ARAB INTERPRETATION IS THAT 242 MEANS WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

A. NO. THAT IS NOT WHAT I SAID.

Q. ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT WE AGREE WITH THAT OR DO WE DISAGREE?

A. THAT IS NOT AN ACCURATE QUOTE OF WHAT I THINK TOM RESTON SAID. WE SAID WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS. GO BACK AND LOOK AT THE RECORD.

Q. I KNOW YOU SAID ALL FRONTS AND YOU NEVER DETERMINED WHERE A FRONT ENDS AND A REAR BEGINS.

A. THAT IS CORRECT, BUT WE DID NEVER SAY ALL OF THE TERRITORIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 079065

Q. THE SECRETARY ON FRIDAY LEFT THE UNMISTAKEABLE IMPRESSION THAT THE ONUS NOW IS ON ISRAEL TO COME UP WITH NEW IDEAS OR CHANGED POSITIONS. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING AT ALL FROM PRESIDENT SADAT AT THIS JUNCTURE? ARE YOU, IN FACT, TAKING HIS POSITION?

A. NO. I DON'T THINK IT IS REALLY PROPER TO INFER FROM THAT THAT SIMPLY BECAUSE WE HAVE DIFFERENCES WITH ONE SIDE OF THE DISCUSSION THAT THAT AUTOMATICALLY MEANS WE EXPECT NOTHING FROM OR AGREE WITH THE OTHER SIDE, NO.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT ANY CHANGE?

A. I THINK THE SECRETARY LAID IT OUT AS CLEARLY AS HE WAS ABLE TO DO. HE WAS FRANK AND CANDID ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND THE ISRAELIS ON 242.

NOW, THAT IS WHERE IT IS. WE DON'T HAVE A QUARREL, AS FAR AS I AM AWARE, WITH THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF 242 THAT THAT IS WHY WE DON'T ADDRESS -- LET ME ANSWER THE QUESTION YOU ASKED ME PREVIOUSLY.

Q. WE DON'T HAVE A QUARREL WITH THEIR INTERPRETATION OF 242?

A. ALL RIGHT. YOU ARE GOING TO PICK ON EVERY WORD I AM SAYING. I AM SAYING AT THE MOMENT THE FOCUS OF THIS DISCUSSION IS ON THE ISRAELI VIEW OF 242 AS COMPARED TO OURS.

Q. BUT I AM ASKING QUITE INDEPENDENT NOW OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK. ARE YOU NOT EXPECTING ANY CHANGE IN POSITIONS FROM PRESIDENT SADAT AT ALL? DO YOU ACCEPT HIS POSITIONS AS THE FINAL AND RIGHT POSITIONS?

A. I DON'T THINK WE ACCEPT HIS POSITIONS AS THE FINAL AND RIGHT POSITIONS. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE EVER SAID  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 079065

THAT.

BUT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ISRAELIS IS ON THESE VARIOUS POINTS. WE ARE AND CONTINUE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH EVERYBODY AND, AS YOU WELL KNOW, WE WILL GO FORWARD WITH THE DISCUSSION ALONG LINES THAT RADIATE OUT TO EVERYBODY THAT IS INVOLVED. I DON'T



THINK THE FINAL WORD HAS BEEN HEARD FROM ANYBODY AND I DON'T THINK WE ACCEPT ANYBODY'S WORD ON IT AS FINAL.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE DISCUSSION WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THEIR SETTLEMENTS POLICY? HAVE YOU HAD ANY INDICATION AS A RESULT OF THE BEGIN VISIT THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE, FOR INSTANCE, ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS OR IS THIS A SUBJECT WHICH YOU ARE ALSO EXPECTING THE ISRAELI CABINET TO MAKE A DECISION ON AT SOME POINT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE?

A. I THINK AT THE BEGINNING OF THE QUESTIONING ON THIS IS LAID OUT WHERE WE ARE. WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT SPECIFICS OR WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR WEEKS. WE ARE IN A PERIOD WHERE THEY ARE LOOKING AT SOME IDEAS THAT WE SUGGESTED TO THEM. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH ALL OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED ON ALL SIDES AND THERE IS NO WAY I CAN DISCUSS FOR YOU WHERE WE THINK THE ISRAELIS ARE HEADED ON ANYTHING.

Q. JUST TO CONFIRM, THE EXPLORATORY IDEAS ALSO DEALT WITH THE SETTLEMENTS QUESTION?

A. I DON'T THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY MADE THAT CLEAR PUBLICLY, SO I AM NOT ABLE TO REALLY.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 079065

Q. ANYTHING ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON, LIKE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ON THE VIOLATION OF THE CEASE FIRE?

A. YES. I CAN GIVE YOU A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT WE KNOW WHERE WE THINK THINGS ARE.

WE THINK THE CEASE FIRE IS GENERALLY HOLDING. THAT IS ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, WHICH IS ALSO THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME THINNING OUT OF ISRAELI FORCES.

THE INFORMATION ON THE WAY THE UNITED NATIONS IS GOING TO WORK OUT ALL OF THESE THINGS IS AGAIN SOMETHING YOU OUGHT

TO ASK THE UN PRESS PEOPLE ABOUT.

Q. IN THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND MR. BEGIN AT THE END OF LAST WEEK I LEARNED THAT THE QUESTION OF LEBANON WAS RAISED BETWEEN THE PARTIES. COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT WAS SAID OR DISCUSSED AS TO THE SITUATION OF LEBANON? WE ALL KNOW THE INVASION OF THE ISRAELI TROOPS TO SOUTH LEBANON CAUSED THE DEATH OF MORE THAN 1200 CIVILIANS.

A. I CAN'T, AS YOU KNOW, DISCUSS FOR YOU WHAT TOOK PLACE

IN MEETINGS WITH THE BEGIN DELEGATION LAST WEEK.

Q. YOU SAID WE DON'T HAVE A QUARREL WITH THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF 242.

A. NO. THAT IS NOT REALLY WHAT MY ANSWER WAS. WHAT I SAID WAS THAT ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT SUBSCRIBED TO 242 AT THE TIME IT WAS APPROVED.

Q. I JUST WANT TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE WE ARE CLEAR ON THIS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 079065

YOU WERE ASKED THE QUESTION: THE ARAB INTERPRETATION IS WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORY AND THEN YOU SAID WE DON'T HAVE A QUARREL WITH THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF 242.

NOW, DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE AGREE? DOES IT? WE DON'T AGREE WITH THAT INTERPRETATION THAT 242 MEANS ALL OF THE TERRITORIES, DO WE?

A. WE AGREE WITH THE LANGUAGE OF 242, WHICH IS A WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES.

Q. BUT NOT ALL TERRITORIES?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHO IS SAYING "ALL". I AM NOT SURE THAT THE ARABS HAVE SAID "ALL".

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT, KING HUSSEIN AND PRESIDENT ASAD, ARE THEY ALL ASKING FOR FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORIES?

A. I DON'T FOR A FACT KNOW, BUT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE FROM HERE TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT. I MEAN I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND LOOK IT UP. I DON'T KEEP IN THE FRONT OF MY MIND EACH LEADER'S POSITION ON EVERY ISSUE.

Q. DO THEY ASK FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE?

A. WHY DON'T WE GO BACK AND LOOK IT UP?

Q. COULD YOU PLEASE CHECK ON THOSE TWO POSITIONS AND LET US KNOW?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 15 STATE 079065

A. I DON'T THINK IT IS UP TO ME TO CHECK THAT. I THINK

THAT IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD ASK THEM OR LOOK UP ON THE RECORD.

Q. WELL, YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOUNDING THE ISRAELI POSITIONS QUITE CLEARLY OVER THE LAST WEEK. SO, MAYBE WE COULD HAVE SOME EXPOUNDING OF THE ARAB POSITION.

A. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE BEEN. WHEN HAVE WE BEEN EXPOUNDING THE ISRAELI POSITIONS?

Q. YOU HAVE ON 242 AT LEAST.

A. NO. WE HAVE ONLY DISCUSSED WHAT THE DIFFERENCES ARE SINCE THIS HAS BEEN A MATTER OF INTENSE PUBLIC SCRUTINY FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS OR SO. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE ISRAELI POSITIONS IN ANY GREAT DETAIL.

Q. TODAY AMBASSADOR PARKER IN BEIRUT, LEBANON MET WITH OUR FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. BUTRUS. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THROUGH YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WHETHER THE LEBANESE ARMY WILL BE MOVING SOUTH SOON OR WHAT?

A. I DON'T KNOW. THIS IS ALL IN THE HANDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS YOU KNOW, AND THE OBJECT OF WHICH IS TO ALLOW THE LEBANESE ARMY TO OCCUPY AND RESTORE THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THAT AREA. BUT I DON'T HAVE A DAY TO DAY, BLOW BY BLOW ACCOUNT OF IT.

2. LATER, SAME DAY, FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS POSTED IN PRESS OFFICE:

QUOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT TODAY HAS BEEN QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE ARAB INTERPRETATION OF THE WITH-UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 16 STATE 079065

DRAWAL PROVISIONS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. THAT IS INACCURATE. A READING OF THE TEXT OF THE NOON BRIEFING MAKES CLEAR THAT IN A LONG QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD ON THIS SUBJECT THE SPOKESMAN DECLARED THAT THE

UNCLASSIFIED 12  
UNCLASSIFIED 11

UNITED STATES ENDORSES THE RESOLUTION AS WRITTEN-- "WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES." THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER ACCEPTED THE INTERPRETATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE AS EITHER REQUIRING OR PRECLUDING WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BUT THE UNITED STATES POSITION HAS BEEN AND REMAINS THAT THE WITHDRAWAL PRINCIPLE DOES APPLY TO ALL FRONTS OF THE CONFLICT.

END QUOTE.

3. THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN MARCH 23  
WERE POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 27:

Q. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, ON MARCH 23, SAID THAT THE  
SAUDIS HAVE ALREADY PROMISED F-15S TO ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY,  
WHICH IS A CONFRONTATION STATE. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT  
THAT?

A.--THIS ASSERTION IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH ANY OF OUR  
INFORMATION ON AND UNDERSTANDING OF SAUDI INTENTIONS.

--THE CONTRACTS UNDER WHICH SAUDI ARABIA WOULD PURCHASE  
THE F-15 WILL, IN CONFORMITY WITH US LAW AND THE US-  
SAUDI MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, PROHIBIT  
TRANSFER OF THE AIRCRAFT TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT  
USG APPROVAL.  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 17 STATE 079065

--THE SAUDIS FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS RESTRICTION.

--MOREOVER, THEY HAVE ASSURED US, RECENTLY AND AT A  
HIGH LEVEL THAT THEY WILL NOT TRANSFER THE F-15 TO ANY  
OTHER COUNTRY.

Q. IN VIEW OF REPORTS THAT ISRAEL IS MOVING CHRISTIAN  
MILITIAMEN INTO BORDER AREAS, HAVE WE MADE CLEAR TO THE  
GOI THAT WE FEEL PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IN LEBANON SHOULD  
BEST BE HANDLED BY THE UN AS SET FORTH BY SECURITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426?

A. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS OUR  
STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE RESOLUTIONS AND FOR THE DEPLOYMENT  
OF UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES WHICH THEY MANDATE; THESE  
GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE UN  
ROLE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. WE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, UNABLE

THE NECESSITY FOR ASSURING THE COOPERATION OF THESE  
MILITIAS WITH THE UN AND ITS FORCES IN DISCHARGING THE  
RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS GIVEN THEM IN SOUTHERN  
LEBANON.

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## Message Attributes

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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** a76d5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3167118  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 27, 1978  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN  
**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
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